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THE VAULT OF

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HORROR

FEATURING...



THE VAULT-KEEPER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH


OH, RALPH... RALPH! I MISS YOU SO! WHY DID YOU HAVE TO DIE? IF ONLY YOU COULD COME BACK TO ME!



J. PAUL CRAIG

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THE VAULT OF HORROR!



HEH, HEH! WELCOME TO THE *VAULT OF HORROR!* ONCE AGAIN I HAVE A CHILLING STORY TO SOOTHE YOUR PALPITATING HEARTS! IT'S FROM MY PRIVATE COLLECTION AND TAKES PLACE IN THE *DEEP SOUTH!* I THINK YOU'LL LIKE IT! I CALL THIS LITTLE SPINE-TINGLER...

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY!

ABNER SCANLON WAS A GIGOLO! BECAUSE HE SO DISLIKED WORK... AND SINCE HE WAS SO HANDSOME... HE PREYED ON RICH WOMEN, AND USED HIS WILES TO SLYLY DRAW MONEY FROM THEM...

GOOD THING I LEFT NEW YORK. I COULD'VE MARRIED THAT DAME, BUT SHE WAS *TOO OLD...* EVEN FOR *ME!*



POSING AS A WEALTHY NEW YORK PUBLISHER, HE TRAVELED TO GEORGIA...AND THERE,BECAUSE HIS FUNDS WERE LOW,HE MARRIED A YOUNG GIRL FROM ONE OF THE SOUTH'S RICHEST CLANS.



AH! I'M SET FOR LIFE!
BEAUTIFUL...AND RICH!
I SURE CAN PICK 'EM!

HEH! ABNER DIDN'T PAT HIMSELF ON THE BACK FOR LONG. HIS WIFE WAS BEAUTIFUL...BUT NEITHER SHE NOR HER FAMILY HAD A DIME!



BROKE?! BROKE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN,
YOU'RE BROKE?

BUT, DARLING, WITH ALL
YOUR MONEY, I DIDN'T
THINK...



MY MONEY?!
I DON'T HAVE
ANY MONEY!
I THOUGHT
YOU HAD
MONEY!

WHAT DOES
IT MATTER,IF
WE LOVE ONE
ANOTHER?



STUPID! STUPID! STUPID!
I DON'T LOVE YOU! I ONLY
MARRIED YOU
BECAUSE I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE RICH!

ABNER!



YOU TRICKED
ME! TRICKED
ME! OH,WHAT
A SAP I AM!

ABNER,PLEASE
DON'T TALK
LIKE THAT!



OUR PLANTATION HAS BEEN LOSING MONEY
FOR YEARS! BUT MY FAMILY IS A PART OF THE
SOUTH'S HERITAGE! WE'RE A PROUD FAMILY!
AND WE WERE BROUGHT UP TO BE
PROUD OF OUR BIRTHRIGHT,
AND TO DEFEND IT! THAT'S
WHY WE PRETEND TO BE
WEALTHY WHEN WE ARE
REALLY...

BAH! YOU
TRICKED
ME!



OH, FATHER...
AUNT MARTHA...
HE DOESN'T
LOVE ME!
HE ONLY...

THERE, THERE,
CLAUDIA, CHILD...
DON'T FRET!

AH NEVAH
YET MET A
YANKEE
WHO WAHN'T
A CAD!

HEH, HEH! THAT WAS A SAD DAY FOR ABNER, BUT THINGS SOON QUIETED DOWN. CLAUDIA'S FATHER AND AUNT NEVER SO MUCH AS BREATHED ANOTHER SOUTHERN-FRIED WORD ABOUT THE INCIDENT. INSTEAD, THEIR LIVES SEEMED TO BE CONCERNED MOSTLY WITH THE GRAND AND GLORIOUS PAST OF THEIR ANCESTORS...



HE WAS SUCH A **GREAT** MAN, WASN'T HE, MARTHA?

(SIGH) YES...

EH? WHO?



WHY... SEBASTIAN CORNELIUS JACKSON! CLAUDIA'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER! HE WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST HEROES OF THE **CIVIL WAR!**

OH... YOU MEAN OLD POKER FACE?



OLD POKER FACE! WHY, SUH, YOU AH EYES ARE GAZIN' UPON ONE OF THE MOST **FAMOUS** MEN IN AMERICAN **HISTORY!** A MOAH **UPRIGHT** AND **COURAGEOUS** MAN NEVAH **LIVED!** WHY, HE **BUILT** THIS VERY PLANTATION WE LIVE ON!

OH... OKAY...



IT WAS **HE** WHO SAVED THIS FINE HOUSE FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE **UNION** ARMY, AND WE ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE BENEFITS WE DERIVED FROM HIS **VISION...** HIS **STRENGTH** AND **WISDOM!** HE HAS BEEN A MODEL TO US... ALWAYS READY TO DEFEND THE **HONOR** AND **RESPECTABILITY** OF OUR NAME!

OKAY, OKAY!



A **GENTLEMAN**, SUH! AND ONE OF THE MOST **BRIGHT** GENERALS IN THE WAR! HE BEGAN A FINE TRADITION AND HE UPHELD THE DIGNITY AND **HONOR** OF THAT TRADITION TILL THE DAY HE **DIED!** MAY HE REST IN PEACE!

OKAY! OKAY! I SAID OKAY!

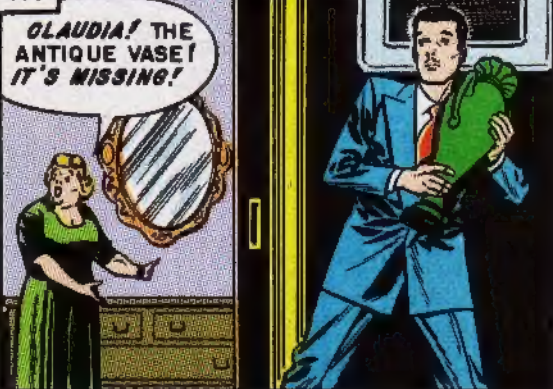


YES! AND NOW WE WHO ARE LEFT MUST **MAINTAIN** THE HONOR AND NOBILITY OF THAT GRAND TRADITION, AND MUST **NEVER** BESMIRCH THE JACKSON NAME, EVEN IF IT MEANS **DEATH!**

OKAY! OKAY! OKAY!



ABNER WAS VERY UNSATISFIED WITH HIS LOT. HE HADN'T MARRIED TO HELP DEFEND THE JACKSON HONOR... HE HAD WED FOR *MONEY!* AND HE SOON FOUND AN EASY WAY OF GETTING IT!

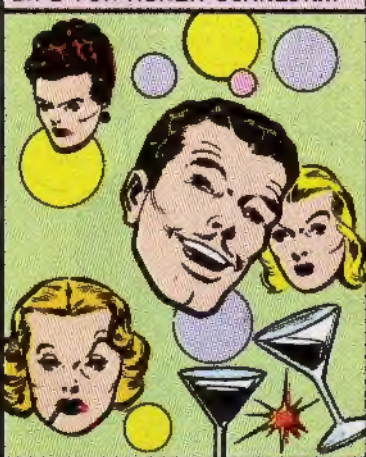


HMMM... I THINK I CAN GIVE YOU ABOUT THIRTY DOLLARS ON THIS....

AHHH! IT'S WORTH MORE... BUT IT'S A DEAL!



AND THEN IT WAS THE GAY LIFE FOR ABNER SCANLON...



NIGHTCLUBS, BARS, RESTAURANTS WINE, WOMEN, SONG... AND HE LOVED EVERY PRECIOUS MINUTE!



BUT SOON HIS MONEY WAS GONE, AND IT WAS BACK TO THE PLANTATION, AND...



OH, ABNER! ABNER. WHY DID YOU DO IT?



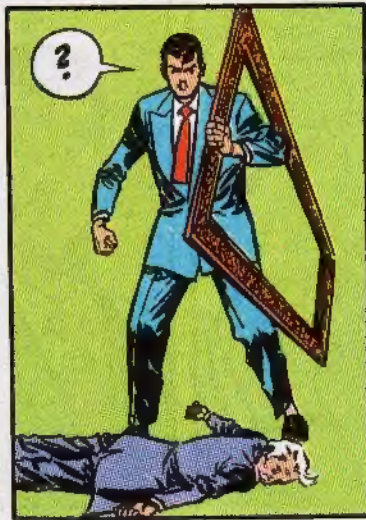
OH, THE SHAME OF IT! PAWNING AN HEIRLOOM THAT WAS HANDED DOWN FROM GRANDFATHER!

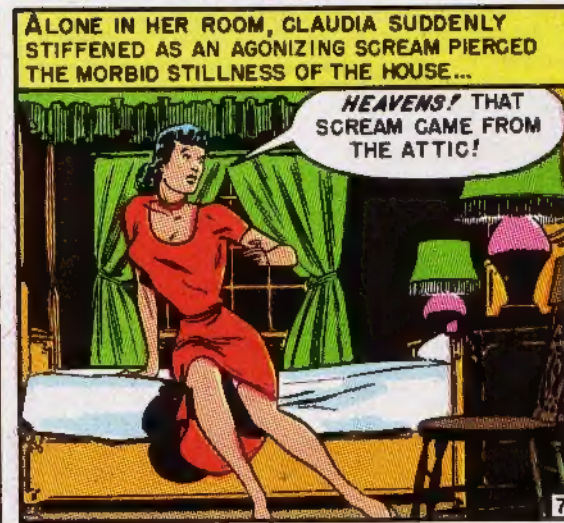
... AND CAROUSING ABOUT THE TOWN! DRINKING! YOU, SUH, HAVE DISGRACED THE NAME OF JACKSON!





HEH, HEH, HEH! WELL, AUNT MARTHA'S FUNERAL WAS A QUIET AFFAIR. CLAUDIA AND HER FATHER SAID NOTHING ABOUT WHAT HAD CAUSED AUNT MARTHA'S DEATH TO SAFEGUARD THE JACKSON REPUTATION! THEN SOME DAYS LATER...





ABNER! ABNER, ARE YOU IN HERE?



HERE'S HIS FLASHLIGHT ON THE FLOOR! SOMETHING **MUST** HAVE HAPPENED!



DON'T SEE ANYTHING YET! I...

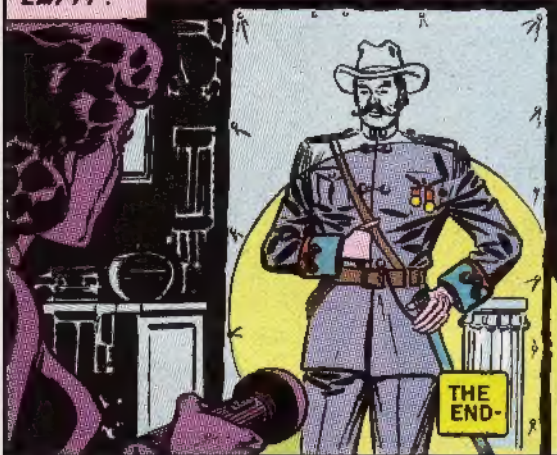
OH! WHAT'S THIS?



EEE-FEE-EEK! ABNER!



QUICKLY, SHE FLASHED THE LIGHT AROUND THE ATTIC UNTIL IT CAME TO REST ON THE PAINTING. SHE STEPPED BACK, STUNNED... FOR GENERAL SEBASTIAN CORNELIUS JACKSON SEEMED TO BE SMILING... AND **HIS SWORD WAS GONE!** THE SCABBARD IN THE PAINTING WAS NOW... **EMPTY!**



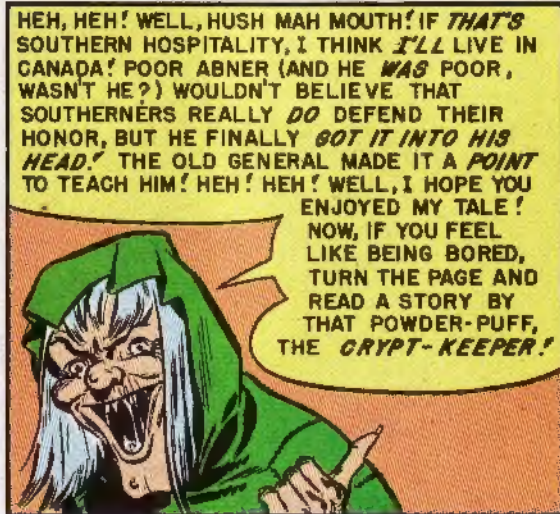
HE'S DEAD! HE'S BEEN KILLED WITH A SWORD! WHY... IT LOOKS LIKE **GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S SWORD!**

??? BUT... BUT GRANDFATHER WAS **BURIED** WITH HIS SWORD! HOW...?



HEH, HEH! WELL, HUSH MAH MOUTH! IF **THAT'S** SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY, I THINK I'LL LIVE IN CANADA! POOR ABNER (AND HE **WAS** POOR, WASN'T HE?) WOULDN'T BELIEVE THAT SOUTHERNERS REALLY **DO** DEFEND THEIR HONOR, BUT HE FINALLY **SHOT IT INTO HIS HEAD!** THE OLD GENERAL MADE IT A **POINT** TO TEACH HIM! HEH! HEH! WELL, I HOPE YOU ENJOYED MY TALE!

NOW, IF YOU FEEL LIKE BEING BORED, TURN THE PAGE AND READ A STORY BY THAT POWDER-PUFF, THE **CRYPT-KEEPER!**



THE CRYPT OF TERROR

HERE'S A DELIGHTFUL TALE THAT I'M SURE WILL MAKE THE HAIRS ON THE BACK OF YOUR NECK CRAWL! IT'S A CHILLER-DILLER SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO FREEZE THE BLOOD IN YOUR VEINS! FROM MY WAST COLLECTION OF TERROR-TALES THAT I KEEP HERE IN THE *CRYPT*, I... THE *CRYPT-KEEPER*... CHOOSE THE SPINE-TINGLING YARN I CALL...

THE JELLYFISH!



NIGHT COVERS THE SLEEPING CITY! IT SHROUDS THE DARK STREETS AND DESERTED ALLEYS LIKE A VELVET BLANKET! HERE AND THERE A MOTH-HOLE OF TWINKLING LIGHT MARS THE BLACKNESS! ONE OF THESE LIGHTS SHINES FROM A WINDOW OF THE BUILDING MARKED 'NORTON PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY CO.' INSIDE, TWO MEN FACE EACH OTHER...

NO, CHARLES! I WON'T DO IT! IT'S CRIMINAL!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A SPINELESS COWARD, HOWARD! YOU'VE GOT NO BACKBONE!



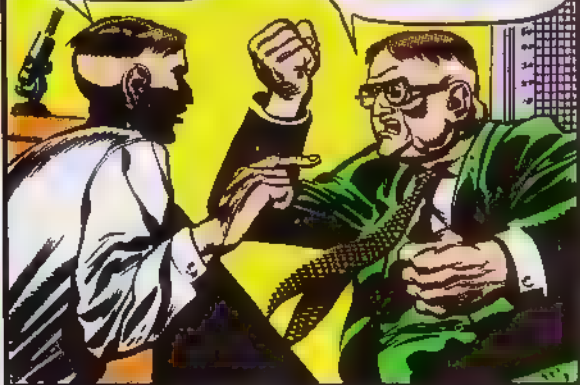
CALL ME ANYTHING
YOU LIKE, CHARLES!
I WILL NOT PERMIT
SUCH AN OUTRAGE!

BUT WE CAN MAKE
THOUSANDS, HOWARD!
WE'LL BE RICH!



I DON'T CARE, CHARLES! YOU'RE
PLAYING WITH HUMAN LIFE!
I WILL NOT AGREE TO SUCH A
FIENDISH PLOT!

LISTEN, YOU JELLY-
FISH! I'M THE
BUSINESS MANAGER
OF THIS COMPANY!
WHAT I SAY GOES!



ONLY SO FAR AS BUSINESS MATTERS
ARE CONCERNED! WHEN IT COMES
TO DRUG PRODUCTION, I HAVE
THE FINAL WORD! AND I
SAY... NO!



LOOK, HOWARD! THIS IS AN ORDER
FOR ONE MILLION HYPODERMIC
INSERTS OF INSULIN! WE CAN
ONLY MANUFACTURE FIVE-
HUNDRED THOUSAND OF SUCH
UNITS IN THE TIME ALLOWED! NOW, IF
WE JUST DILUTE EACH CAPSULE
ONE HALF... WE CAN MEET
THIS ORDER!



CHARLES! YOU CAN CALL ME A
SPINELESS JELLY-FISH... YOU
CAN CALL ME A COWARD WITH NO
BACK-BONE... YOU CAN CALL ME
ANYTHING YOU LIKE! I WILL NOT
LET YOU DILUTE OUR INSULIN
OUTPUT TO MEET THIS ORDER AND
THAT'S FINAL! NOW, I'M LATE
FOR MY TRAIN! I'LL BE OUT
OF TOWN FOR THE NEXT
FEW DAYS!



HOWARD NORTON, BIOCHEMIST IN CHARGE OF DRUG
PRODUCTION FOR THE NORTON PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLY
COMPANY, TURNS FROM HIS BROTHER, CHARLES, AND
STORMS OUT OF THE OFFICE! CHARLES, THE BUSINESS
MANAGER OF THE CONCERN, SINKS WEARILY INTO A
CHAIR...

A TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR
ORDER... THROWN OUT THE WINDOW BECAUSE MY
BROTHER IS A WEAKLING...



WELL I DON'T LET THAT KIND OF MONEY GO SO EASILY!
NOT ME! I'M NO JELLY-FISH! HOWARD NEEDN'T
FIND OUT! I'LL DO IT WITHOUT HIS CONSENT! I'LL
JUST FORGE HIS NAME TO THIS PRODUCTION ORDER
AND START SHIPPING IMMEDIATELY! WHEN HOWARD
RETURNS, THE ORDER WILL HAVE BEEN FILLED...



AND SO, WITHOUT HOWARD KNOWING IT, CHARLES NORTON BEGINS THE SHIPMENTS OF DILUTED INSULIN! Y'KNOW WHAT *INSULIN* IS, KIDDIES? PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM *DIABETES* HAVE TO TAKE IT OR ELSE THEY PASS OUT... MAYBE EVEN DIE!



WHAT IS IT, DOCTOR?



HE'S IN A COMA! ARE YOU SURE HE TOOK HIS *INSULIN* TODAY, MRS. GREENE?

POSITIVE, DOCTOR! I GAVE IT TO HIM MYSELF!

STRANGE! LET ME SEE HIS *INSULIN* SUPPLY!



ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN...

H...HE JUST COLLAPSED... RIGHT THERE ON THE SIDEWALK!

SOMEBODY GET A DOCTOR!

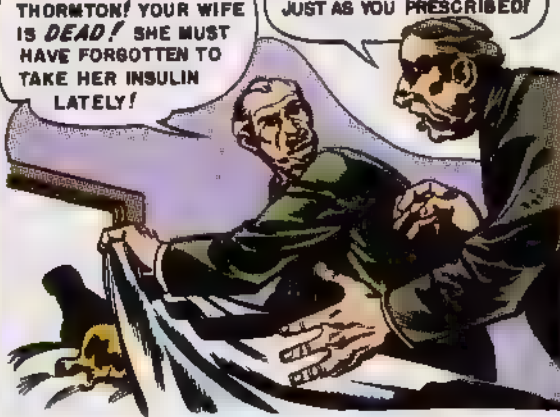
DON'T BOTHER! THIS GUY'S DEAD!



PEOPLE TAKING NORTON INSULIN FOR DIABETES BEGIN TO DROP LIKE FLIES

I. I'M SORRY, MR. THORNTON! YOUR WIFE IS *DEAD*! SHE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN TO TAKE HER *INSULIN* LATELY!

BUT... SHE *DID*! SHE TOOK IT EVERY DAY... JUST AS YOU PRESCRIBED!



AND THEN IT IS DISCOVERED...

NO! IT CAN'T BE! THIS *INSULIN* HAS BEEN *DILUTED*! IT'S...IT'S PRACTICALLY WORTHLESS IN THIS CONCENTRATION!



IN A FEW DAYS...

I'M FROM THE GOVERNMENT... PURE FOODS AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION! WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DRUG PRODUCTION OF THIS COMPANY?

WHY, MY BROTHER HOWARD IS BIOCHEMIST IN CHARGE! I'M JUST THE BUSINESS MANAGER!

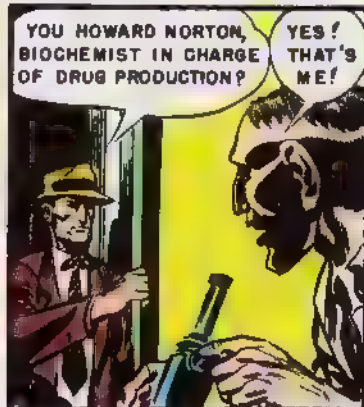




WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?

HE'S PROBABLY IN HIS LABORATORY... DOWN THE HALL!

THE GOVERNMENT MAN MOVES DOWN THE HALL TO THE DOOR MARKED 'LABORATORY'. HE OPENS IT AND



YOU HOWARD NORTON, BIOCHEMIST IN CHARGE OF DRUG PRODUCTION?

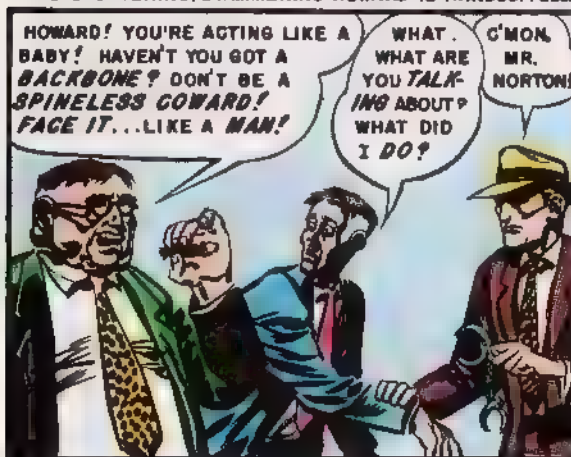
YES! THAT'S ME!



NORTON! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHAT?

CHARLES WATCHES, A FAINT SMILE ON HIS FACE, AS THE STUTTERING, STAMMERING HOWARD IS HANDCUFFED.



HOWARD! YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A BABY! HAVEN'T YOU GOT A BACKBONE? DON'T BE A SPINELESS COWARD! FACE IT... LIKE A MAN!

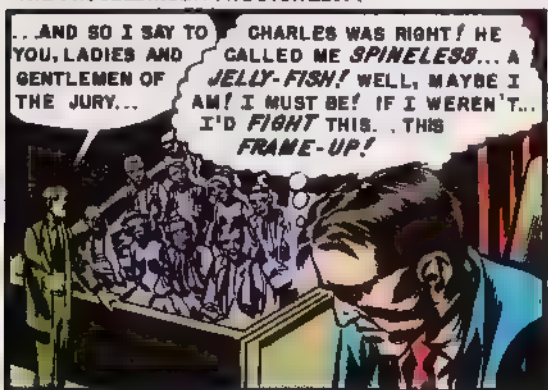
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHAT DID I DO? G'MON, MR. NORTON!

IN HIS CELL, AWAITING TRIAL.



HOW COULD MY BROTHER DO THIS TO ME? WHAT CAN I TELL THEM?

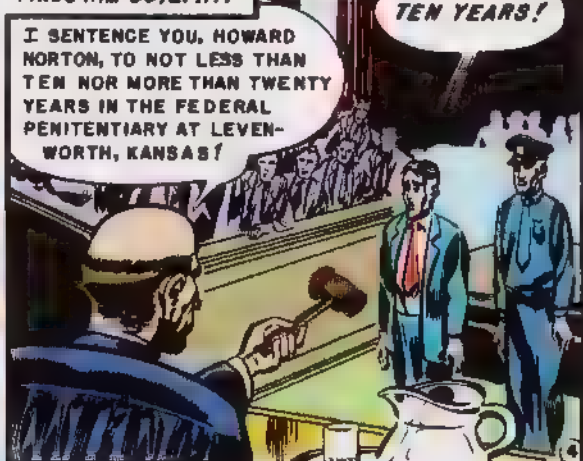
THE TRIAL IS SWIFT! THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HOWARD IS UNDENIABLE! HE HAD BEEN IN CHARGE! 'HE' HAD 'SIGNED' THE PRODUCTION ORDER! HE MUST BE GUILTY! HOWARD REMAINS SILENT THROUGHOUT THE PROCEEDINGS... RESIGNED...



... AND SO I SAY TO YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY...

CHARLES WAS RIGHT! HE CALLED ME SPINELESS... A JELLY-FISH! WELL, MAYBE I AM! I MUST BE! IF I WEREN'T... I'D FIGHT THIS... THIS FRAME-UP!

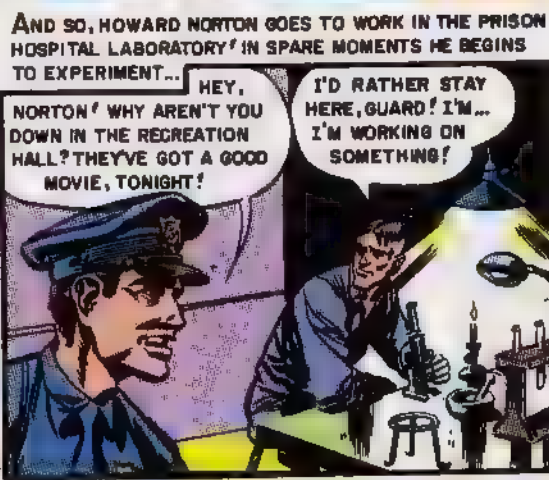
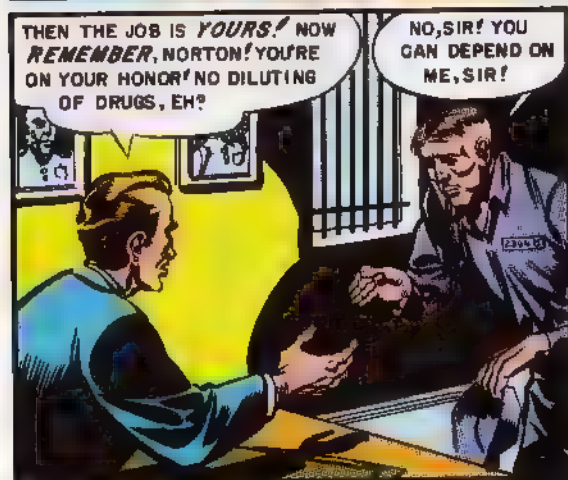
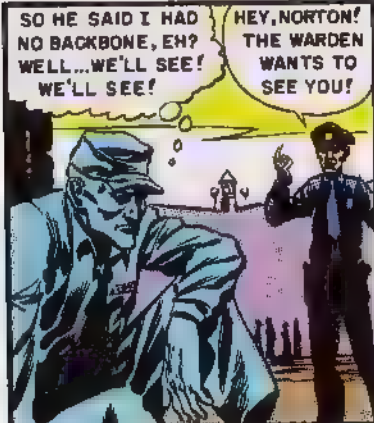
BUT HOWARD DOESN'T FIGHT! AND WHEN THE JURY FINDS HIM GUILTY...



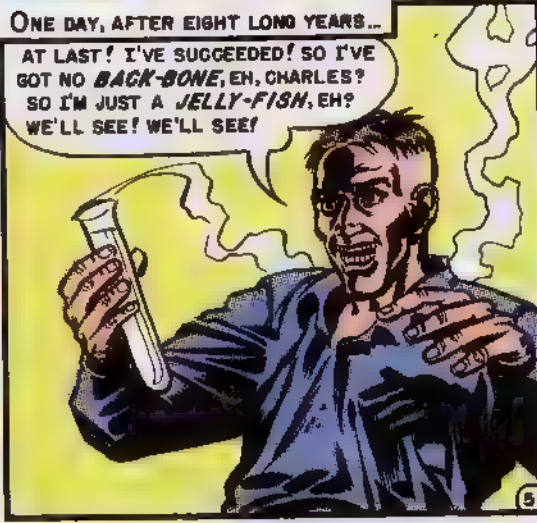
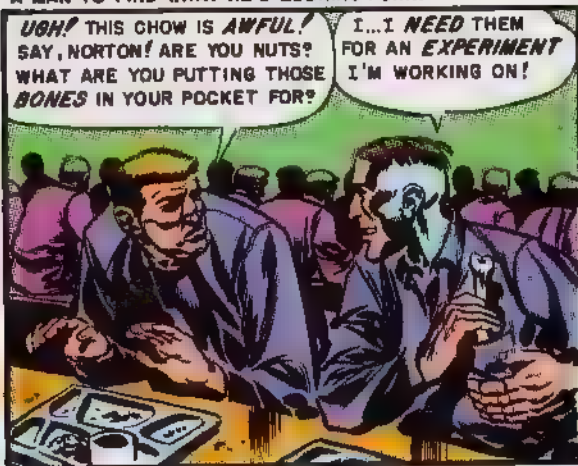
I SENTENCE YOU, HOWARD NORTON, TO NOT LESS THAN TEN NOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY AT LEVENWORTH, KANSAS!

TEN YEARS!

YES, THE JUDGE SENTENCES HOWARD NORTON TO FROM TEN TO TWENTY YEARS! THAT'S A **LONG TIME!** TIME FOR A MAN TO **THINK... TO PLAN... TO GROW BITTER...**

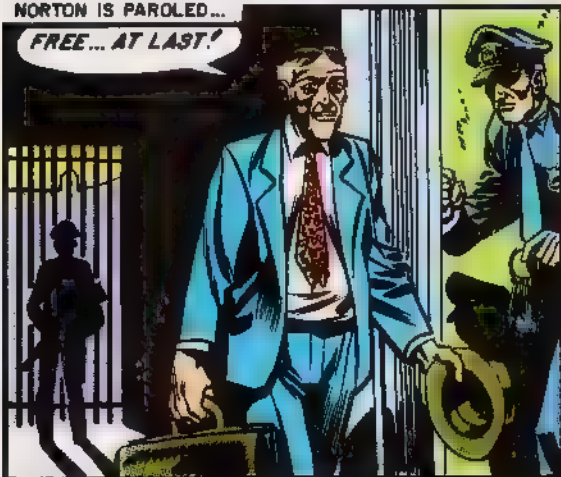


YES! TEN YEARS IS A LONG TIME! PLENTY OF TIME FOR A MAN TO FIND WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR...



AND SO, AFTER TEN YEARS OF GOOD BEHAVIOR, HOWARD NORTON IS PAROLED...

FREE... AT LAST!



A FEW NIGHTS LATER, AS CHARLES NORTON IS SITTING IN HIS LUXURIOUS HOME...

YES, COLLINS?

IT'S YOUR BROTHER, SIR! HE'S OUTSIDE! HE WANTS TO SEE YOU!



HOWARD... OUT OF PRISON? SEND HIM AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM! I...

CHARLES! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME!



H-HOW ARE YOU, HOWARD?

AS WELL AS CAN BE EXPECTED, CHARLES! HOW'S BUSINESS? YOU LOOK QUITE PROSPEROUS!



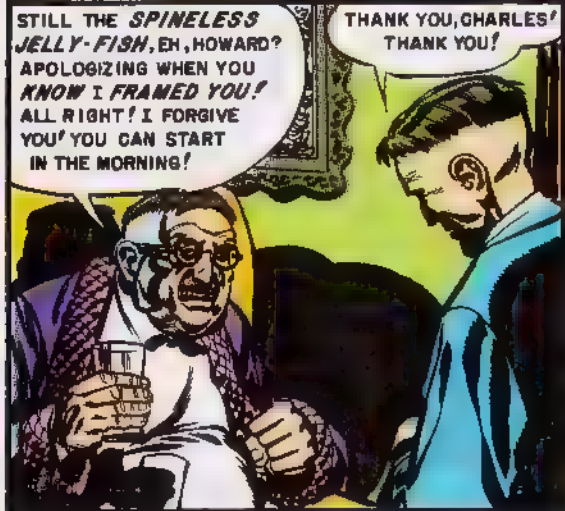
Y-YES! THAT INSULIN ORDER WAS JUST WHAT WE NEEDED! AFTER THE SCANDAL, I SWITCHED TO PLASTICS! MADE QUITE A LOT OF MONEY!

I WONDER IF YOU COULD FIND A PLACE FOR ME, CHARLES? I'M ASKING YOU TO FORGIVE ME FOR THE TROUBLE I CAUSED YOU!



STILL THE SPINELESS JELLY-FISH, EH, HOWARD? APOLOGIZING WHEN YOU KNOW I FRAMED YOU! ALL RIGHT! I FORGIVE YOU! YOU CAN START IN THE MORNING!

THANK YOU, CHARLES! THANK YOU!



COME! WE'LL DRINK TO OUR REUNION! NO HARD FEELINGS?

NO HARD FEELINGS, CHARLES!



AS CHARLES POURS THE DRINKS, HOWARD TAKES A SMALL WHITE PILL FROM HIS POCKET AND DROPS IT INTO CHARLES' GLASS WHILE HIS HEAD IS TURNED...

YES! THERE'S PLENTY FOR BOTH OF US, HOWARD!



CHARLES SWALLOWS THE DRINK SWIFTLY.

YOU ALWAYS CALLED ME A SPINELESS JELLY-FISH WITH NO BACK-BONE, DIDN'T YOU, CHARLES?



THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, HOWARD!

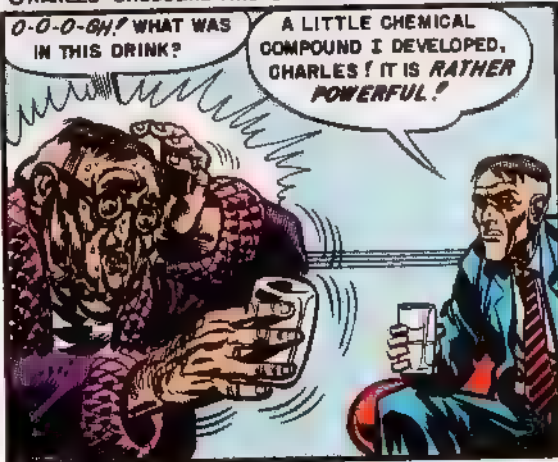
WHILE I WAS IN PRISON, I HAD A CHANCE TO DO SOME EXPERIMENTS!



CHARLES SHUDDERS AND STARES AT THE GLASS...

O-O-O-OH! WHAT WAS IN THIS DRINK?

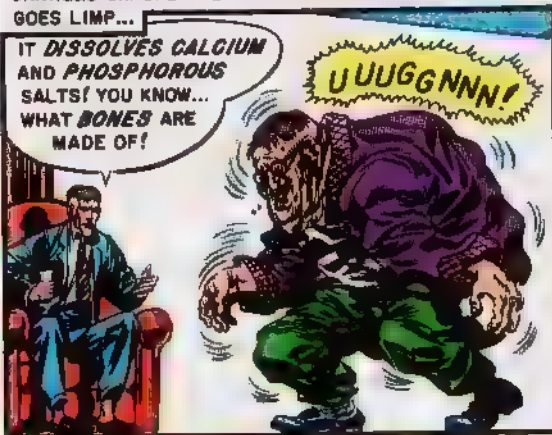
A LITTLE CHEMICAL COMPOUND I DEVELOPED. CHARLES! IT IS RATHER POWERFUL!



THE GLASS FALLS TO THE FLOOR AND SHATTERS! CHARLES GRASPS THE TABLE FOR SUPPORT! HIS BODY GOES LIMP...

IT DISSOLVES CALCIUM AND PHOSPHOROUS SALTS! YOU KNOW... WHAT BONES ARE MADE OF!

UUUGGNNN!



SUDDENLY, THE RIGIDITY LEAVES CHARLES' BODY AND HE COLLAPSES TO THE FLOOR... A MASS OF FLESH...

HOWARD GAZES AT THE MOUND OF QUIVERING FLESH BEFORE HIM! HIS THOUGHTS GO BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, AT THE BEACH... WHEN HE WOULD ACCIDENTALLY CRUSH A SLIMY JELLY-FISH UNDER HIS BARE FOOT! HE SHUDDERS... GLENCHES HIS FISTS AND...

HEH, HEH! WELL, THAT'S MY LITTLE OFFERING FOR YOUR CONTEMPLATION, DEAR READER! YES, THERE WERE NO HARD FEELINGS ANYMORE! IN FACT, AFTER HOWARD HAD REMOVED HIS SHOES AND SOCKS, CHARLES FELT QUITE SOFT TO HIM! HOWARD WASTED NO TIME! BESIDES, IT WAS GETTING LATE! HE HAD TO STEP ON IT! 'BYE NOW! SEE YOU IN MY OWN BOOK, TALES FROM THE CRYPT. I'LL RETURN YOU NOW TO MY FELLOW GHOUUNATIC, THE VAULT-KEEPER!

GLLAGHH!

NOW, I AM NOT THE SPINELESS, BACK-BONELESS ONE, CHARLES! YOU ARE!



NOW YOU ARE A JELLY-FISH, CHARLES!



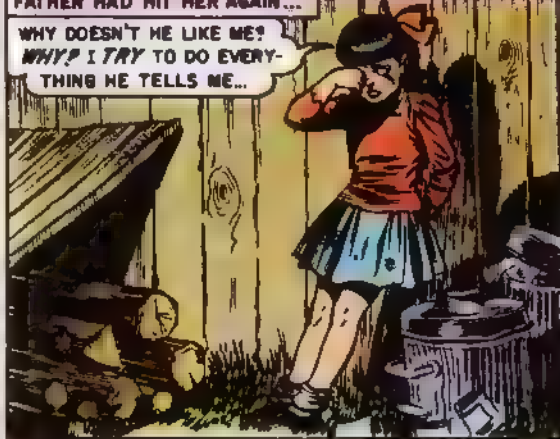


THIS IS THE STORY OF THE NIGHT THAT KATHY'S DADDY LOST HIS HEAD!!



KATHY STOOD IN THE BACK YARD NEAR THE WOOD-PILE AND LOOKED AT THE WORLD THROUGH TEAR-FILLED EYES! HE HAD HIT HER AGAIN...HER MEAN OLD STEP-FATHER HAD HIT HER AGAIN...

WHY DOESN'T HE LIKE ME?
WHY? I TRY TO DO EVERY-
THING HE TELLS ME...



INSIDE THE HOUSE, MARTIN BLACKSON WATCHED HIS EIGHT YEAR OLD STEPDAUGHTER WITH HATE IN HIS EYES.

LOOK AT HER...STANDING THERE,
SNIVELING LIKE A BABY!
LITTLE BRAT...

YOU HATE
HER...DON'T
YOU MARTIN?



MARTIN SPUN AROUND AT THE SOUND OF ETHEL'S VOICE...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED?

I HEARD YOU BEATING KATHY! I COULDN'T STAND IT!



GET BACK UPSTAIRS! YOU KNOW WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID...

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION, MARTIN! WHY DO YOU HATE KATHY?



WELL, IF YOU *MUST* KNOW... IT'S BECAUSE SHE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE JOHN, YOUR FIRST HUSBAND!

AND YOU'RE JEALOUS OF JOHN, AREN'T YOU? EVEN THOUGH HE'S DEAD, YOU'RE JEALOUS OF HIM?



WHY *SHOULDN'T* I BE? YOU DON'T FOOL ME, ETHEL! I KNOW YOU STILL LOVE HIM! I KNOW YOU NEVER LOVED ME... THAT YOU ONLY MARRIED ME FOR SECURITY!

BUT WHY... WHY TAKE IT OUT ON KATHY?



OUTSIDE, KATHY DRIED HER EYES WITH A TINY CLENCHED FIST! THE SQUEAK OF MRS. THAUMATURGE'S ROGGER DRIFTED ACROSS THE STILL AFTERNOON AIR! OLD, CROTCHEY MRS. THAUMATURGE! KATHY WAS AFRAID OF MRS. THAUMATURGE... HER WRINKLED SKIN... HER STRINGY HAIR... HER TOOTHLESS GRIN! THROUGH A CRACK IN THE BOARD FENCE, KATHY PEEKED AT THE OLD WOMAN...

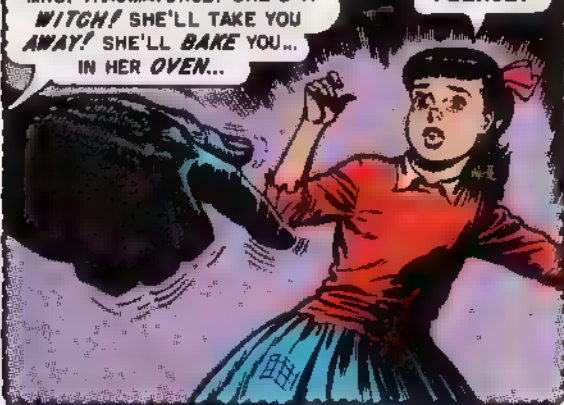
DON'T *PEER* AT ME THROUGH FENCES, CHILD! IF YOU WANT TO GET A GOOD LOOK... COME ON OVER!



HER STEPFATHER HAD WARNED HER ABOUT MRS. THAUMATURGE! HE'D CALLED HER A *WITCH*! ONCE, HE HAD TOLD HER...

I'LL CALL OVER MRS. THAUMATURGE! SHE'S A *WITCH*! SHE'LL TAKE YOU AWAY! SHE'LL BAKE YOU... IN HER OVEN...

NO, DADDY! NO! PLEASE!



KATHY SHIVERED BEHIND THE BOARD FENCE! 'SHE *MUST* BE A WITCH! HOW DID SHE KNOW I WAS WATCHING HER?' SHE WONDERED! SUDDENLY SHE SENSED HER STEPFATHER BEHIND HER... HIS HEAVY BREATHING... HIS FAMILIAR ODOR...

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO GET THE WOOD. NOW... GET IT!

YES, DADDY! YES...



MRS. BLACKSON WAS A VERY SICK WOMAN! KATHY HAD LISTENED BEHIND THE DOOR THE DAY THE DOCTOR HAD WARNED HER MOTHER ...

STAY IN BED, MRS. BLACKSON! ANY UNDUE EXCITEMENT... ANXIETY... MIGHT PROVE FATAL!

I... I UNDERSTAND, DOCTOR!



AFTER SHE HAD CARRIED THE HEAVY LOGS INTO THE HOUSE, KATHY RUSHED UPSTAIRS TO HER MOTHER'S ROOM! MOTHER WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO LOVED KATHY! SHE HAD NO OTHER FRIENDS! AND SHE COULD HARDLY EVEN REMEMBER HER REAL DADDY NOW...

MOMMY! MOMMY! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

CALL THE DOCTOR... KATHY! I... I'VE ...HAD ...ANOTHER ATTACK!



KATHY'S EYES FILLED WITH TEARS! THEY RAN DOWN HER CHEEKS... WASHING GROOKED WHITE TRAILS IN THE BLACK SMUDGES! KATHY FLUNG HERSELF ON HER KNEES AND LAY HER HEAD ON HER MOTHER'S HEAVING CHEST...

OH, MOMMY! MOMMY! PLEASE, DON'T DIE... DON'T DIE AND LEAVE ME... PLEASE...

KATHY... GASP... PLEASE... HURRY... GALL THE... GASP... DOCTOR... HURRY.

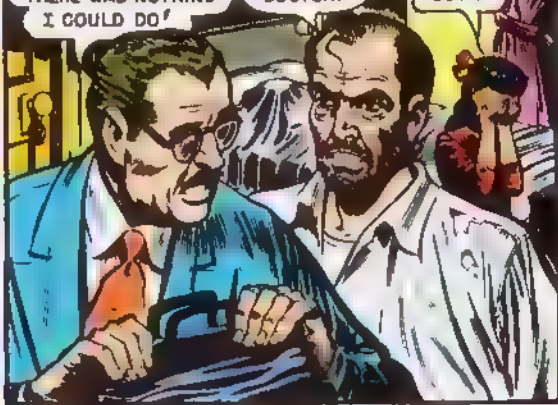


WHEN KATHY CAME BACK TO THE HOUSE WITH THE DOCTOR, HER MOTHER WAS DEAD.

I'M SORRY, MARTIN! THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO!

OF COURSE, DOCTOR!

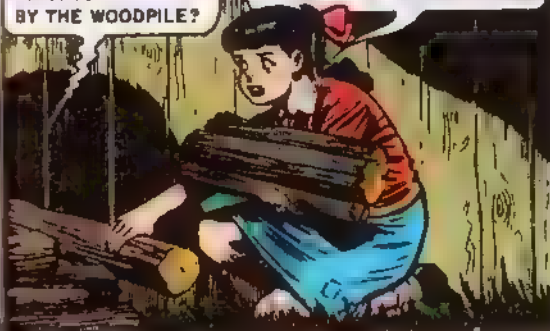
MOMMY... GONE SOB SOB...



AFTER THE FUNERAL, KATHY'S STEPFATHER SEEMED TO TREAT HER EVEN MORE CRUELY THAN BEFORE! SHE WAS ALL ALONE! HER STEPFATHER WOULD GO OFF TO WORK AND LEAVE HER TO SHIFT FOR HERSELF! OF COURSE, THERE WERE THINGS TO DO... THE FLOORS... THE WASHING... DUSTING... MOPPING... CARRYING WOOD...

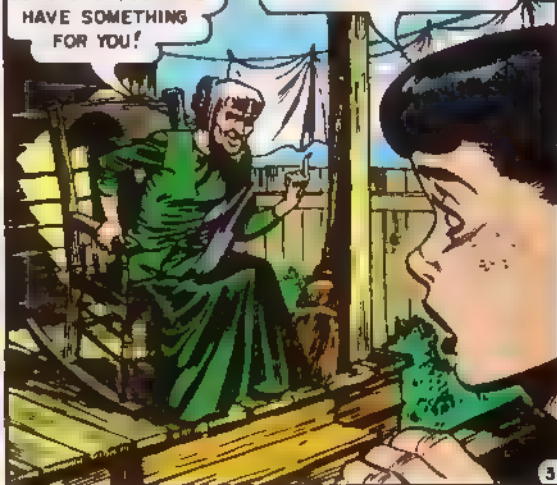
KATHY? THAT YOU BY THE WOODPILE?

Y-YES, MRS. THAUMATURGE.



COME OVER, DEAR! I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!

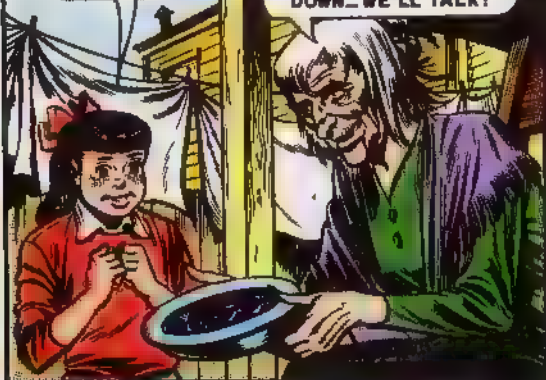
SOMETHING... FOR ME?



AT FIRST KATHY WAS AFRAID TO GO BUT LONELINESS IS EVEN MORE FRIGHTENING FOR AN EIGHT YEAR OLD! SO...

GANDY!
FOR ME!

EAT IT, CHILD! IT'S GOOD!
MADE IT MYSELF! SIT
DOWN... WE'LL TALK!



KATHY AND MRS. THAUMATURGE BECAME VERY FRIENDLY IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS! KATHY POURED OUT HER HEART TO THE OLD WOMAN, AND FELT RELIEVED! SHE WOULD VISIT MRS. THAUMATURGE EVERY DAY...

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING,
MRS. THAUMATURGE?

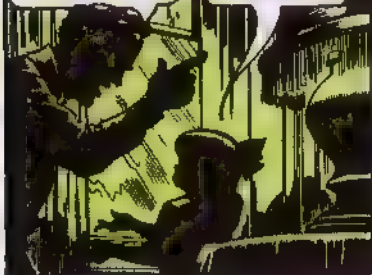
SOMETHING, CHILD! SOME-
THING SPECIAL! A
SURPRISE... FOR YOU!



KATHY WAS HAPPY AGAIN! AT LEAST SHE RECEIVED *SOME* AFFECTION! NOT LIKE IN THE EVENINGS, WHEN HER STEPFATHER CAME HOME FROM WORK...

YOU DIDN'T
WASH THE WINDOWS,
DID YOU? YOU
DIDN'T DO WHAT
I TOLD YOU...

I...I FORGOT,
DADDY! I WAS
WATCHING MRS.
THAUMATURGE
COOKING...



I TOLD YOU TO
STAY AWAY FROM
THAT OLD CRONE,
DIDN'T I? SHE'S
BAD! SHE'S A
WITCH!

SHE'S NOT!
SHE'S *NOT*!
SHE'S MY
FRIEND!



WELL, YOU STAY
AWAY FROM HER
OR I'LL THRASH
YOU WITHIN AN
INCH OF YOUR
LIFE...

YES
DADDY...



THE NEXT DAY, WHEN KATHY WENT OUT IN THE BACK YARD FOR THE WOOD...

KATHY,
CHILD! I'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR YOU! I HAVE YOUR
SURPRISE FINISHED!

DADDY SAYS I
MUSTN'T GO NEAR
YOU ANYMORE!
DADDY SAID HE'LL
WHIP ME IF I DO!



OLD MRS THAUMATURGE THRUST HER GNARLED ARM OVER THE BOARD FENCE...

WELL, HERE'S YOUR
SURPRISE, ANYWAY!

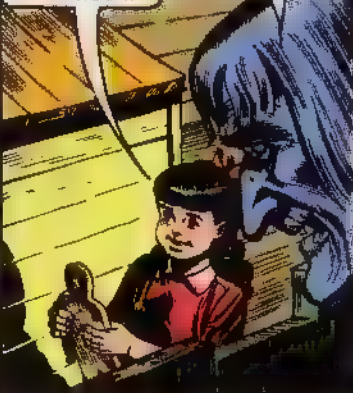
A DOLL!



KATHY HAD NEVER HAD A DOLL! SHE HELD IT LOVINGLY IN HER TINY HANDS... IT'S CANDY, OH, NO! I'D NEVER EAT IT! NEVER! KATHY! I MADE IT MYSELF! YOU CAN EAT IT WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT! I'LL LOVE IT, ALWAYS!

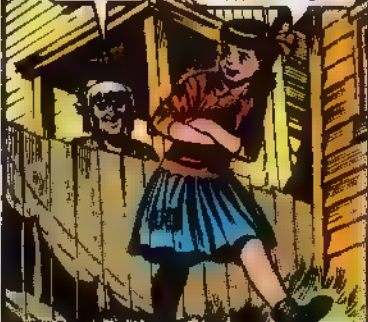


KATHY GIGGLED AS SHE STUDIED THE DOLL... IT LOOKS... A LITTLE LIKE... MY FATHER! TEE-HEE... IT... DOES... DOESN'T IT! A LITTLE...



A SMILE SPREAD ACROSS OLD MRS. THAUMATURGE'S WRINKLED FACE AS SHE WATCHED KATHY DANCE HAPPILY ACROSS THE YARD AND INTO THE HOUSE WITH HER PRIZE...

IT'S CANDY, KATHY! DELICIOUS CANDY! OH, THANK YOU, MRS. THAUMATURGE! THANK YOU!



THAT AFTERNOON, KATHY PLAYED WITH HER DOLL! SHE LOST TRACK OF THE TIME! SUDDENLY, SHE HEARD THE DOOR OPEN DOWNSTAIRS...

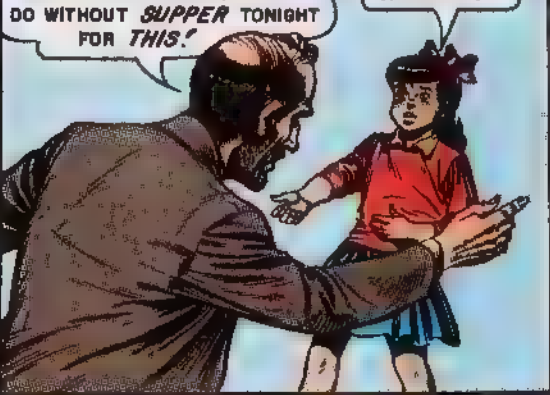
DADDY'S HOME! AND I DIDN'T FINISH MY CHORES!



KATHY HID THE DOLL, AND WENT DOWNSTAIRS! HER STEPFATHER WAS FURIOUS! HE RAVED AND RANTED... WHIPPED HER... AND THEN...

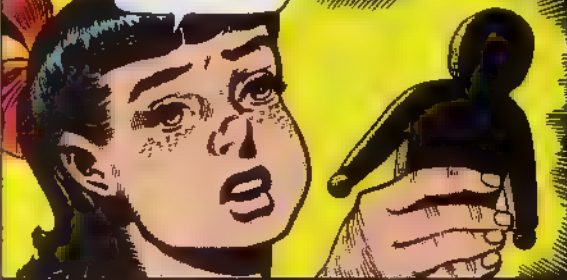
GO TO YOUR ROOM! YOU'LL DO WITHOUT SUPPER TONIGHT FOR THIS!

BUT, DADDY... I'M HUNGRY!

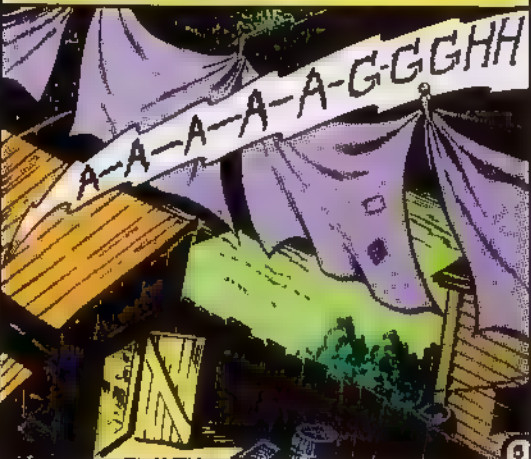


KATHY WENT TO HER ROOM! THE GNAWING PAINS OF HUNGER CLAWED AT HER LITTLE STOMACH! SHE HEARD HER FATHER GO OUT INTO THE WOODSHED! SHE HEARD THE SINGING OF THE BIG ROUND SAW AS IT SPUN... FASTER... FASTER! IT WAS SAFE! DADDY WAS CUTTING WOOD! SHE GOT OUT THE CANDY DOLL... CARESSSED IT LOVINGLY...

JUST ONE LITTLE BITE... JUST A LITTLE ONE! IT WON'T SPOIL YOU...



SUDDENLY THE NIGHT AIR WAS SHATTERED BY AN EAR-SPLITTING SCREAM...



AFTER THE DOCTOR HAD COME AND GONE, KATHY STOLE SILENTLY TO HER STEPFATHER'S ROOM! HE LAY IN HIS BED, MOANING...

I. I'M SORRY YOU CUT OFF YOUR HAND, DADDY!
I. I HOPE IT DIDN'T HURT?

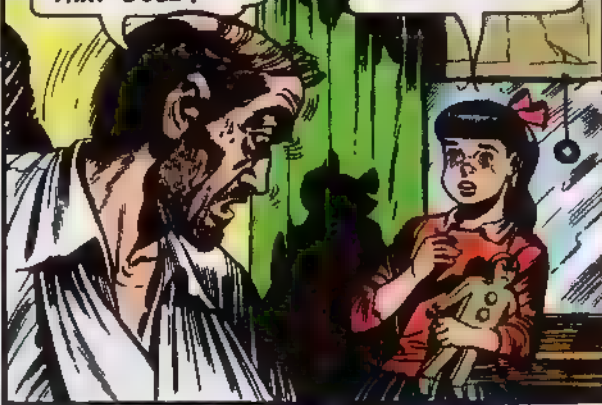
GO AWAY!
GO AWAY AND LEAVE ME ALONE!



SUDDENLY MARTIN BLACKSON'S EYES FELL UPON THE CANDY DOLL THAT KATHY HELD TENDERLY IN HER ARMS...

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT DOLL?

MRS. THAUMATURGE MADE IT FOR ME!



THE HAND...THE LEFT HAND OF THE DOLL...THE SAME HAND AS THE ONE HE HAD ACCIDENTLY AMPUTATED... WAS MISSING...

GIVE IT TO ME!
GIVE IT TO ME, QUICKLY! IT'S EVIL...

NO, DADDY!
NO! IT'S CANDY...



MARTIN STUMBLED TOWARD KATHY, GASPING FOR BREATH! SHE BACKED AWAY, HUGGING THE DOLL TO HER CHEST...

GASP YOU'RE CRUSHING ME! I CAN'T BREATHE! GASP... GIVE IT TO ME!

NO! IT'S MINE! IT'S NOT EVIL! IT'S ONLY CANDY... SEE?



KATHY RAISED THE DOLL TO HER MOUTH, AND SWIFTLY BIT ITS HEAD OFF! IT WAS TASTY CARAMEL! SHE STARED AT HER FATHER... WIDE-EYED...WHILE SHE CHEWED...

SEE. IT'S ONLY CANDY! DADDY... DADDY...



KATHY TURNED AND WALKED OUT OF HER STEPFATHER'S ROOM! SHE WENT DOWNSTAIRS, ACROSS THE BACK YARD, AND UP MRS. THAUMATURGE'S PORCH STEPS! AS SHE OPENED THE DOOR, SHE GULPED DOWN THE LAST OF THE CARAMEL HEAD...

MRS. THAUMATURGE! COME SEE! THE STRANGEST THING JUST HAPPENED TO DADDY!



MRS. THAUMATURGE SMILED AS SHE GLAZED AT THE HEADLESS CANDY DOLL IN KATHY'S HAND...



HEH, HEH! WHAT A DELICIOUS FINISH FOR A STORY, EH, DEAR READER? IT CERTAINLY WAS A MOUTHFUL TO SWALLOW... FOR KATHY, THAT IS! OH, BY THE WAY! IF YOU'RE WONDERING



WHAT HAPPENED TO KATHY AFTER HER LOVIN' STEPFATHER DIED, REST EASY! OLD MRS. THAUMATURGE ADOPTED HER! RIGHT NOW, SHE'S GIVING KATHY FLYING LESSONS ON A BROOM! AND NOW, I'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THAT OTHER BROOM-PILOT, THE OLD WITCH!

THE WITCH'S CAULDRON!

HEE, HEE! SO THAT *NURSERY TALE* THE *VAULT-KEEPER* JUST TOLD YOU WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A *HORROR* STORY, EH? *HMMMPH!* I'M SURE YOU WERE ALL *BORED TO DEATH!* NOW IF YOU *REALLY* WANT A *GOOD* HORROR TALE... NOT A *CHILDREN'S FAIRY TALE*... COME IN! COME INTO THE *HAUNT OF FEAR!* I AM *THE OLD WITCH!* MY CAULDRON IS FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH AN EVIL BREW! ITS CONTENTS ARE DUB-BLING AND STEAMING! SO SIT DOWN ON THAT *BED OF NAILS* OVER THERE AND I'LL DISH OUT A *POINTED TALE*... A TALE I CALL...

REUNION!



MY STORY BEGINS JUST OUTSIDE A SMALL MID-WESTERN TOWN! IT IS NIGHT! THE MOON HANGS LOW IN THE SPRING SKY! ITS REFLECTION SHIMMERS ON THE WATERS OF A PLACID LAKE! UNDER A GNARLED OAK TREE, A WOMAN STANDS SOBBING QUIETLY, GAZING OUT OVER THE STILL WATER...

OH, WHY SOB WHY DID IT HAVE TO HAPPEN?

THAT'S LILLIAN ANSLEY CRYING HER LITTLE HEART OUT! POOR WOMAN! WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? IT'S A LONG SAD STORY! BRACE YOURSELF...



LILLIAN WAS YOUNG WHEN SHE MARRIED WALDO ANSLEY! PROBABLY *TOO* YOUNG! NINETEEN! WALDO WAS THIRTY-THREE AT THE TIME! LILLIAN WAS INFATUATED WITH THIS DISTINGUISHED-LOOKING OLDER MAN.. AND WALDO'S EGO DIDN'T SUFFER AT HAVING A NINETEEN YEAR OLD GIRL IN LOVE WITH HIM, SO...

DO YOU *MEAN* IT, WALDO?

OF COURSE, LILLIAN! I'M ASKING YOU TO *MARRY ME!*



THAT WAS SIXTEEN YEARS AGO! LILLIAN AND WALDO WERE VERY HAPPY AFTER THE WEDDING! THE FIRST SIX MONTHS... THAT IS! THEN...

BUT, WALDO!

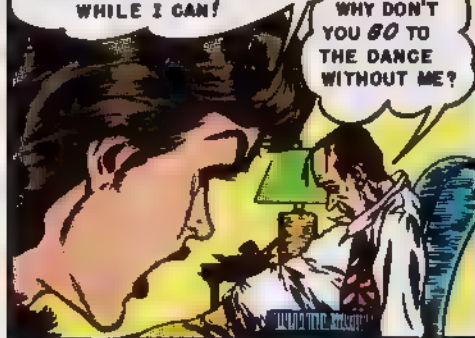
I KNOW LILLIAN, BUT... I'M *TIRED!* I *COULDN'T* GO TO THAT *DANCE* IF I *WANTED* TO!



IT WAS THE THIRD TIME IN A MONTH THAT WALDO HAD DONE THIS! LILLIAN WAS DISGUSTED! WALDO'S AGE WAS SHOWING...

TIRED! YOU'RE ALWAYS *TIRED!* WELL, I'M *YOUNG!* I WANT TO HAVE *FUN...* ENJOY MYSELF WHILE I CAN!

YOU'RE RIGHT, LILLIAN! WHY DON'T YOU GO TO THE DANCE WITHOUT ME?



LILLIAN WENT! SHE WENT TO THE DANCE ALONE! BUT SHE WASN'T ALONE LONG! SOON SHE WAS DANCING WITH YOUNG, ENERGETIC ROGER KANE...

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL MY LIFE, BEAUTIFUL?

LOOKING FOR *YOU*, HANDSOME!



OH, AT FIRST IT WAS ALL IN FUN! BUT SOON, TALK GOT MORE SERIOUS... *TOO* SERIOUS...

I'VE GOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN, LILLIAN! I'VE GOT TO! I... I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU!

ROGER! YOU *MUSTN'T!* YOU *MUSTN'T TALK* LIKE THAT! I *CAN'T* SEE YOU AGAIN! IT'S... *IMPOSSIBLE!*



BUT SOMEHOW, THE IMPOSSIBLE WAS ACCOMPLISHED! AS WALDO COMPLAINED MORE, LILLIAN SAW ROGER MORE AND MORE...

LILLIAN, DEAREST! YOU'VE GOT TO ASK WALDO FOR A *DIVORCE!* I WANT TO MARRY YOU!

OH, DARLING! YES! YES! I REALIZE, NOW, I NEVER LOVED HIM! IT'S YOU I LOVE... *YOU!*



THEY WERE MAD ABOUT EACH OTHER... THOSE TWO! AND SO, LILLIAN MADE UP HER MIND TO TELL WALDO THE WHOLE STORY! BUT BEFORE SHE COULD GET UP ENOUGH COURAGE, WALDO BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL...

IT'S A GRIPPLING FORM OF POLIO, LILLIAN! WHEN IT ATTACKS A MAN WALDO'S AGE, IT MEANS ONLY ONE THING... PARALYSIS!

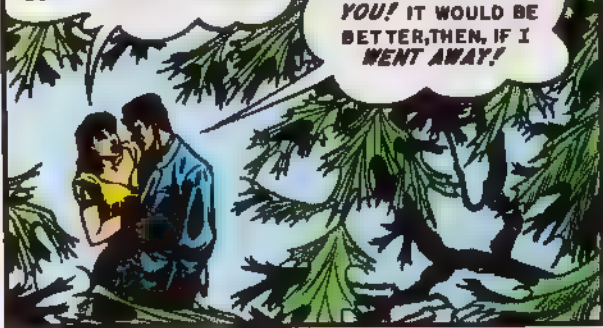
OH, NO!
NO!



POOR LILLIAN! WITH WALDO HELPLESS, AND ROGER BECKONING, SHE WAS IN AN AWFUL QUANDRY! WHAT TO DO? WHAT TO DO? AND THEN, LILLIAN REALIZED THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO...

HE'S MY HUSBAND, ROGER! HE NEEDS ME! I. I CAN'T LEAVE HIM...NOT NOW!

I. I WON'T MAKE YOU, LILLIAN! BUT.. WELL, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU! IT WOULD BE BETTER, THEN, IF I WENT AWAY!



AWAY? FOR GOOD?

YES! IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE NEVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN!

LILLIAN... TEARS STREAMING FROM HER EYES... CLUTCHED ROGER...

NO, ROGER! NOT 'NEVER'! PLEASE GIVE ME SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR!

I'LL COME BACK! IN FIVE YEARS. MAYBE THEN... WE'LL SEE...

HERE, ROGER? WE'LL MEET HERE... BY THE LAKE? FIVE YEARS FROM TONIGHT?

YES! PERHAPS THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT... PERHAPS THINGS WILL HAVE CHANGED!



AND SO, ROGER AND LILLIAN PARTED! THEY GLUNG TO EACH OTHER, THERE BY THE LAKE, AND VOWED THEIR LOVE... AND PROMISED TO MEET EACH OTHER IN FIVE YEARS IN THAT VERY SPOT...

GOOD-BYE, DARLING! I... LOVE YOU!

GOOD-BYE, LILLIAN! I'LL BE BACK... IN FIVE YEARS! I LOVE YOU, TOO, DEAREST.



AND LILLIAN WENT BACK TO HER INVALID HUSBAND, WALDO! SHE CARED FOR HIM... DAY AND NIGHT... WEEK IN AND WEEK OUT... FOR FIVE LONG YEARS! POOR LILLIAN...

TOMORROW NIGHT! TOMORROW NIGHT ROGER COMES BACK! TOMORROW NIGHT BY THE LAKE...

LILLIAN... PLEASE... TURN ME OVER...



THE NEXT NIGHT THEY WERE THERE, UNDER THE GNARLED OAK TREE BY THE LAKE, IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS...

OH, ROGER...
ROGER...

FIVE YEARS...
FIVE LONG YEARS...

HOW...HOW'S WALDO,
LILLIAN?

ALL RIGHT! NO BETTER!
NO WORSE!

THEN, YOU
STILL WON'T...

NO, ROGER! I
CAN'T! HE
NEEDS ME!
BUT, PLEASE...
DON'T TALK!

MAKE UP FOR
THOSE FIVE
LONG YEARS!
KISS ME...

LILLIAN...
DARLING!

SUCH A SWEET SCENE! SUCH DEEP
LOVE! BUT SOON...SOON IT WAS
ALMOST OVER...

I'VE GOT TO
GO, LILLIAN!
MY TRAIN...

COME BACK
AGAIN, ROGER?
IN FIVE YEARS...

IN FIVE YEARS...I'LL
BE BACK! I PROMISE!

PLEASE...JUST ONE MORE
KISS! IT HAS TO LAST
SO LONG...

AND THEN HE WAS GONE... AND LILLIAN WAS ALONE
ONCE MORE...ALONE WITH WALDO...WITH NOTHING TO
LOOK FORWARD TO...NOTHING FOR FIVE LONG YEARS...

LOOK AT ME! NURSING AN
INVALID HUSBAND... AT
TWENTY-FIVE...

LILLIAN...
PLEASE...A
DRINK OF
WATER...

THE YEARS DRAGGED ON! ONE...TWO
...THREE...FOUR...FIVE YEARS WENT
BY! AND THEN, ONCE MORE, LILLIAN
AND ROGER WERE TOGETHER...



DARLING...

LILLIAN...



...AND WALDO?

LIKE ALWAYS!
BUT LET'S NOT
TALK, DARLING!

A FEW ECSTATIC HOURS OF HAPPY-
NESS, AND THEN...

I'VE...GOT TO
BE GOING, LILLIAN!

SO SOON...
SO SOON...



ROGER BEGGED HER...

LILLIAN! YOU'RE
THIRTY! YOU'RE
GETTING ON...WE'RE
BOTH GETTING ON
IN YEARS! I...

NO, ROGER! I WON'T
LEAVE HIM! HE'S *HELP-
LESS*...AND I'M HIS
WIFE! COME BACK
DARLING...COME BACK!



ALL RIGHT, LILLIAN!
I'LL COME BACK AGAIN...
IN FIVE YEARS...

PROMISE ME, ROGER!
PROMISE ME YOU'LL
COME! YOU'RE ALL I...
LIVE FOR!



IT WAS OVER! ROGER WENT AWAY AGAIN! AND ONCE
MORE THE YEARS BEGAN TO CRAWL BY! ONE...TWO...
BUT THEN...

IS HE
VERY BAD, DOCTOR?

HIS HEART MUSCLES ARE
GOING! HE'S...DYING, LILLIAN!
I...I'M SORRY!



YES, WALDO DIED! AND LILLIAN WAS FREE...

...ASHES TO ASHES! DUST TO DUST...



LILLIAN WAITED A REASONABLE AMOUNT OF TIME AFTER WALDO'S DEATH...

BUT TWO YEARS! I CAN'T WAIT FOR ROGER FOR TWO YEARS! I MUST FIND HIM...



WHERE TO LOOK? ROGER HAD NEVER TOLD WHERE HE LIVED! LILLIAN HAD NO IDEA WHERE TO GO! THEN SHE WENT TO AN OLD FRIEND OF ROGER'S...

ROGER KANE? WHY, DON'T YOU KNOW?

KNOW WHAT?



ROGER KANE IS DEAD! HE WAS KILLED IN THE TRAIN WRECK DOWN AT EVANSVILLE TWO YEARS AGO... MANGLED!



THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR LILLIAN! NOTHING! SHE WAS FREE... BUT ROGER WAS GONE! AND THAT'S WHY SHE'S THERE NOW... UNDER THE GNARLED OAK TREE, CRYING HER LITTLE HEART OUT. TONIGHT... WOULD HAVE BEEN THE NIGHT OF THEIR THIRD REUNION! POOR LILLIAN!



SUDDENLY, A TWIG SNAPS IN THE BUSHES BEHIND LILLIAN! A HOARSE, ALMOST UNINTELLIGIBLE VOICE CALLS HER NAME...

LILLIAN? IS THAT... YOU?

WHO... WHO'S THERE?



ROGER STANDS BEFORE HER! HIS DECAYED AND ROTTED BODY CARRIES THE PUTRID ODOR OF DEATH...



SHE SCREAMS! HER TERRIFIED SHRIEK ECHOES ACROSS THE LAKE! ROGER CANNOT UNDERSTAND! HE MOVES TOWARD HER...

IT'S ME, LILLIAN! DON'T CRY OUT! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

YAAAAAAAH!



LILLIAN'S PUNY FISTS BEND AGAINST ROGER'S TATTERED CHEST AS HE DRAWS HER TO HIM...

DON'T YOU... LOVE ME ANYMORE, LILLIAN?

EEEEEEE

CONFUSED... BEWILDERED... THE CORPSE OF ROGER KANE TRIES TO COMFORT THE HYSTERICAL SCREAMING WOMAN...

I *KNEW* I HAD TO COME... SO I CAME! I WALKED ALL THE WAY... TWELVE MILES...

AAAAGH

SUDDENLY, THE SCREAMING STOPS! LILLIAN SOBS QUIETLY, STARING AT THE DECOMPOSED FACE SO CLOSE TO HER...

THERE?

ROGER?

THAT'S BETTER! ISN'T IT?

POOR LILLIAN! SHE RECOGNIZES ROGER, NOW! SHE SEES HIM CLEARLY... NOT THE UGLY, ROTTING HULK BEFORE HER... BUT AS HE WAS... LONG AGO...

ROGER DARLING! IT IS YOU!

YES, LILLIAN! IT IS ME!

THE SHOCK HAS BEEN TOO MUCH FOR LILLIAN! SHE HAS GONE COMPLETELY OUT OF HER MIND! SHE IS STARK RAVING MAD...

OH, ROGER DEAREST! WE'RE TOGETHER, NOW... FOR ALWAYS! KISS ME...

THE NIGHT DRAGS ON, AND DAY DAWNS OVER THE LAKE! UNDER THE OLD GNARLED OAK ARE TWO BODIES... ONE, A SMILING LADY, RECENTLY DECEASED... THE OTHER, A PUTRID, DEGAIED, GRINNING GENTLEMAN, LONG DEAD...

HEE, HEE! I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS *EMBRACING YARN*! DEAR ROGER CERTAINLY KEPT HIS PROMISE, DIDN'T HE? HE CAME BACK IN FIVE YEARS AS HE SAID HE WOULD, EVEN IF HE HAD TO DIG HIMSELF UP OUT OF A GRAVE TO DO IT! AND LILLIAN? WELL, LILLIAN WAS *CRAZY* TO SEE HIM, WASN'T SHE? 'BYE NOW! SEE YOU IN MY OWN BOOK... *'THE HAUNT OF FEAR!'*

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE STORIES IN THIS BOOK? SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO:

THE VAULT OF HORROR
POB 469
WEST PLAINS MO 65778